

What's Playing in Africa: Monday, June 7, 2010

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



The goal of the African Regional Media Hub is to increase official US voices and faces on African television, radio and other media, so that the US government message is visible, active and effective in advocating US policies, priorities, and actions with African audiences.

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On the U.S.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/politics/What%20Kenya%20wants%20from%20Obamas%20man%20%20/-/1064/933314/-/3tfqhvz/-/index.html>

What Kenya wants from Obama's man

US Vice-President Joe Biden flies into Nairobi on Monday amid unprecedented security and quiet despair in the corridors of power over what is seen as failure by the Obama administration "to be helpful" in finding a solution in Somalia. Mr. Biden will be in the country for two days as part of a three-nation visit, which includes attending the opening ceremony of the Fifa World Cup in South Africa on Friday. He is the third top-ranking US official to visit Kenya since the election of Mr. Barack Obama, whose father was Kenyan. Mr. Biden is expected to deliver a special message from Mr. Obama on reforms and the constitution review.

http://www.jimmatimes.com/article/Latest_News/Latest_News/President_Obama_also_on_Wrong_Side_of_History_with_Ethiopia_policy_OLF/33517

President Obama also on the "wrong side of history" with Ethiopia policy

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), one of the main groups representing the voice of Oromo Ethiopians, said the West needs to change its policy on Ethiopia. OLF said Meles has "stopped pretending

democratic and openly declared a one party dictatorial rule," after a rigged election that has embarrassed Meles Zenawi's Western supporters. OLF quotes a famous phrase from US President Obama's inauguration speech to criticize Western support to Meles.

Oromo Liberation Front – Press Release

The Meles-TPLF Regime's May 23, 2010, Sham and Fraudulent Election Embarrassed its Foreign Supporters

The Meles/TPLF regime's May 23, 2010, sham and fraudulent election vindicated the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and embarrassed its foreign supports. The OLF did not have an illusion that the Meles/TPLF regime is an antithesis to democracy and the rule of law. After all, the Meles/ TPLF regime is a declared and ardent disciple of the "Maoist theory of Revolutionary Democracy" and as such one could expect of it nothing but a sham and farcical elections. The relation of the OLF and the TPLF regime was an adequate early warning to all interested that the TPLF régime is tyrannical and it has no political will and commitment to democracy; respect for human rights and freedoms and the rule of law. This early warning was conveniently not heeded particularly by the Western supporters of the tyrannical regime.

Governance

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65509120100606>

Rwanda opposition asks US to help defuse tension

Three Rwandan opposition parties have asked the United States to use its influence to help resolve social and political tension in the country before the presidential election in August. Rights groups say the government and the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) have become increasingly intolerant of dissent and criticism in the run-up to the vote, which President Paul Kagame is widely expected to win. In an open letter last week to the U.S. ambassador in Kigali, Stuart Symington, and seen by Reuters on Sunday, the three-party coalition said: "We strongly believe that your leverage as the ambassador of the United States of America in Rwanda can help diffuse tensions as the presidential elections loom and... (the) military crisis deepens."

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65504X20100606>

Uganda says Sudan's Bashir not invited to AU meeting

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who faces the risk of arrest on war crimes charges, has not been invited to next month's African Union conference in Uganda, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said in a statement. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has an indictment against Bashir over crimes in Sudan's western Darfur region and African states that are signatories to the agreement establishing the court are obliged to arrest him. Museveni's office issued a statement late on Saturday saying Sudan would be represented at the conference by "other government officials" and not Bashir.

<http://ns211683.ovh.net/spip.php?article35310>

Sudan reacts fiercely to Uganda's announcement on Bashir

The Sudanese government deplored an announcement by the office of Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni that it has asked Khartoum to send someone other than president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to the African Union (AU) summit hosted by Kampala next month. Uganda is a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which issued an arrest warrant for Bashir on charges of war crimes in Darfur and therefore has a legal obligation to apprehend him should he set foot in the country. "President Yoweri Museveni has disclosed that his Sudanese counterpart General Omar Hassan Bashir has not been invited to attend the African Union Conference," a statement from the Ugandan presidency said.

http://www.news.dailytrust.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20022:ibb-atiku-insist-on-power-rotation&catid=46:lead-stories&Itemid=140

Nigeria: IBB, Atiku insists on power rotation

Political leaders from the northern part of the country stepped up efforts at maintaining the power rotation formula of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the weekend in order to prevent President Goodluck Jonathan from contesting in the 2011 presidential election. Daily Trust learnt that a group of prominent politicians under the umbrella of G15 Northern Leaders Forum have scheduled another meeting in two weeks' time to devise means of ensuring that the PDP's presidential ticket remains in the North in 2011. The source said prominent among those that attended a meeting of the G15 last week include former military president Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and former Finance Minister Mallam Adamu Ciroma. "The next meeting is in two weeks and the organisers are arranging to have five delegates from each of the 19 northern states. The interest generated by the last meeting beats the imagination of the organisers with men of quality and substance from the zone in attendance. I believe that the next meeting will have more people in attendance," our source said.

<http://www.leadershipnigeria.com/news/cover-stories/15929-2011-let-jonathan-run--gov-yuguda>

Let Jonathan run: Gov. Yuguda

Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State has said that President Goodluck Jonathan has every right to contest the 2011 presidential election, describing the zoning arrangement of his party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as illegal and unconstitutional. Speaking with journalists in Abuja, weekend, Yuguda said: "Zoning is not constitutional. Every qualified Nigerian, including President Goodluck Jonathan, has every right to contest the presidential election; we must go by the constitution. We want acceptable and reputable person. That is the leader Nigerians currently want." The governor, who is married to the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's daughter, said that if his party decides to go by the gentleman's agreement of zoning, he has no problem with that but advised the PDP to allow the constitution of the country to guide its activities. On the consistent agitation for reform in the party by the PDP Reform Forum, the governor said he did not see anything wrong with the party that requires reform. He said some of those calling for reform do not have political base in their wards, local government areas and states.

<http://www.theeastafican.co.ke/news/-/2558/932638/-/pdyrqwz/-/index.html>

African Legislators see bias in ICC's workings

Parliamentarians from member-countries of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Africa are accusing the Court for selectively pursuing justice by focusing on investigating suspected criminals mainly from this continent. They said that while the ICC is keen on investigating war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, the Court is sitting on numerous complaints against Western leaders who are accused of causing untold suffering from wars they started in the Middle East. They said that the ICC appears to act under influence of some Western powers who use it as an instrument to weed out leaders who are against their policies in Africa. Officials from the ICC office however said that the accusations lacked substance because the constitution of the Court's Judges' panel is dominated by Judges from Africa.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/36264>

Somaliland election campaigns start

The second multi-party elections for the presidency of the breakaway republic of Somaliland have kicked off, promising a tight fight between President Dahir Riyale Kahin and opposition leader Ahmed Mahamoud Silanyo. The Somaliland government yesterday kicked off the election campaign with a short statement: "Somaliland presidential election campaign started officially today, and the three political

parties allotted certain days to do their campaign outings. The election is to take place on 26 June, 2010, which will fall on the 50 Anniversary of Somaliland's independence day."

<http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/26795-exiled-tycoons-face-arrest-ag.html>

Zimbabwe: Exiled tycoons face arrest

ZIMBABWEAN authorities have threatened to arrest three high-profile exiled business tycoons involved in disputes with government over controversial operations of their companies despite their recent despecification. In remarks which are bound to shock the businessmen, Attorney-General Johannes Tomana said Zimbabwe's top business moguls, Mutumwa Mawere, James Makamba and John Moxon, still faced arrest upon returning home even after they were despecified by authorities. Tomana told the Zimbabwe Independent this week that the despecification of the three businessmen did not absolve them of charges that could still arise from allegations of externalization of foreign currency and defrauding government. Makamba and Moxon were specified under the Prevention of Corruption Act following accusations of externalizing foreign currency while Mawere was accused of defrauding government. The three are still holed up outside the country, fearing arrest if they returned.

<http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/26793-govt-cracks-down-on-diamond-watchdog.html>

Zimbabwe: Govt. cracks down on diamond watchdog

GOVERNMENT is cracking down on controversial diamond watchdog Centre for Research and Development (CRD) at a time when Marange diamonds and the role of security agents in illegal mining are expected to take centre stage at a meeting of diamond regulators in Israel. The Tel Aviv meeting is to review the state of the diamond industry and consider other pressing issues affecting the diamond trade. The police crackdown comes barely a week after Kimberley Process monitor Abbey Chikane completed an assessment of the country's compliance with the international body's regulations and announced that Zimbabwe was on track in meeting the minimum KP requirements.

<http://www.theeastafrikan.co.ke/news/Season%20of%20populism%20opens%20with%20budgets%20in%20shadow%20of%20elections/-/2558/932618/-/e3igbk/-/index.html>

East Africa: Season of populism opens with budgets in shadow over elections

The East African Community will this week enter a new season of populism as five finance ministers present their budget in a political environment defined by national elections. Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania are going into elections this year, Uganda in 2011. Kenya is going into a Constitutional referendum in August and succession politics shortly thereafter. While the global economy is once again at risk of being dragged back into a recession by the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, optimism runs high in East Africa. Tanzania is already preparing to borrow from the international markets through a Eurobond. Kenya has similar plans, but it is wary of the expense given the crisis that Greece is going through that has made the Ghanaian Eurobond so expensive. So high is the optimism that all five countries have indicated in their national plans that they intend widening their budget deficits both to cushion the very poor and keep the growing ranks of unemployed youth happy as these countries head for elections—and in Kenya, a vote for a new Constitution.

Conflict

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE6550B720100606>

Kenya says ready to defend against al Shabaab rebels

Kenyan security forces are ready to tackle any threats from the rebel group al Shabaab in neighbouring Somalia, a senior regional administrator said.

Al Shabaab fighters crossed into Kenya from south Somalia on May 27 while pursuing rivals from the Somali Hizbul Islam group. They wounded five Kenyans and kidnapped three more before freeing them after negotiations between the group and Kenyan community elders.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/us_and_canada/10250525.stm

Men held at JFK airport to face terror charge

Two men arrested at New York's John F Kennedy Airport have been charged with conspiring to commit an act of international terrorism. US authorities say they intended to join a jihadist group in Somalia and kill American troops overseas. Mohamed Mahmood Alessa, 20, and Carlos Eduardo Almonte, 24, were held before they could board separate flights to Egypt and then continue to Somalia. They are due to appear on Monday in a federal court in Newark, New Jersey.

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_90_Al_Shabaab_fighters_killed_Ahlu_Sunna.shtml

90 Al-Shabaab fighters killed: Ahlu Sunna

A spokesman for pro-Somali government militia, Ahlu Sunnah Wal-Jamaa has claimed that more than 90 fighters from the rival insurgent group Al-Shabaab have been killed and over 170 others injured in heavy clashes that rocked Somalia's capital Mogadishu, Radio Garowe reports. Sheikh Abdullahi Abdirahman Abu Yussuf, told reporters on Friday four among those killed are senior insurgent officials and foreign fighters, who were fighting alongside local fighters.

He further stated that his militiamen have conquered the northern districts of Hodan and Hawlwadag and are on the verge of capturing strategic locations include Bakara Market, an insurgent stronghold.

Human Rights

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65502X20100606>

Congo suspends police chief in activist inquiry

Democratic Republic of Congo's top police officer has been suspended to facilitate an inquiry into the death of a prominent human rights activist, officials said on Sunday. The death of Floribert Chebeya, head of local campaign group Voice of the Voiceless (VSV) and whose body was found last week, prompted concern from the United Nations and major donors such as Britain, France and the United States. "(Inspector General) John Numbi was suspended so that the Attorney General can focus on his enquiries smoothly and make sure nothing gets in the way of the investigations," Daniel Lubo, an advisor at the Interior Ministry, told Reuters.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-06-07-its-like-a-concentration-camp>

'It's like a concentration camp'

Grim rows of grey metal shacks stretch out with military precision in the barren sandy ground. Residents call it Blikkiesdorp -- "Tin Can Town" in Afrikaans -- a vast, soulless temporary camp for Cape Town's homeless and evicted that has attracted a media spotlight ahead of the Soccer World Cup. "This is basically like a concentration camp," said Mohammed Ali, who lives in the settlement with his wife and two daughters. Miles away from the city's upscale attractions that will greet soccer fans, some residents accuse officials of using Blikkiesdorp for a World Cup clean-up in a debate that has unveiled South Africa's crushing poverty.

World Cup

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65503V20100606>

World Cup is uniting South Africa, says Zuma

The soccer World Cup is uniting South Africa, much like the 1995 world rugby victory helped break down racial barriers, and it will leave a legacy for decades to come, President Jacob Zuma said on Sunday. South Africa becomes the first African nation to host the world's most watched tournament from Friday. "The enthusiasm, joy and excitement that has engulfed the entire nation in recent weeks has not been witnessed since President Nelson Mandela was released from prison (in 1990)," Zuma said at a press briefing. "This explosion of national pride is a priceless benefit of the World Cup tournament."

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/world_cup_2010/8724848.stm

16 people injured in stadium crash

Sixteen people, including two policemen, have been injured after a crush outside a South African ground hosting a World Cup warm-up game. Several fans fell under a rush of people outside the Makhulong Stadium in the Johannesburg suburb of Tembisa. Entry to the friendly between Nigeria and North Korea was free, and many more than the 10,000 capacity turned up. Football's world governing body Fifa has said it was not involved in any "operational" aspect of the fixture. A Fifa statement added that "contrary to some media reports, Fifa had nothing to do with the ticketing of this game"

<http://www.sport24.co.za/Soccer/WorldCup/TournamentNews/Bafana-offered-millions-to-win-20100607>

Bafana offered millions to win

Bafana Bafana players will receive around R4m each and a brand-new Mercedes Benz - but only if they win the 2010 Soccer World Cup, according to a report in the Sowetan. This is part of the agreement reached between the players' representative Tony Irish and SAFA's chief executive officer Leslie Sedibe. Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira will also get the same incentives as the players in terms of the contract he negotiated with SAFA.

Economy

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/36263>

Lesotho economy stagnating

Lesotho, as many Southern African neighbors, is still hard hit by the global economic crisis. Substantially no growth was registered last year, and this year will see no improvement. "The global economic crisis has had an adverse impact on Lesotho. Demand for exports has fallen, economic growth has declined, and the projected sharp reduction in Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues is likely to result in a significant deterioration in both the fiscal and external deficits." This is the strikingly negative conclusion in the latest analysis of Lesotho's economy by the International Monetary Fund.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/36256>

EU to keep freezing Madagascar aid

The European Union (EU) will continue freezing its substantial aid to Madagascar for another year, disagreeing with the transition process announced by coup leader Andry Rajoelina. A continued suspension of EU aid to Madagascar was today recommended by the European Commission. The advice is presented to EU Ministers, which are expected to approve the aid freeze in a meeting next week. European aid to Madagascar, prior to Mr. Rajoelina's March 2009 coup, was among government's main revenues. Madagascar had turned into a donors' favorite during the presidency of Mr. Rajoelina's predecessor Marc Ravalomanana

Corruption

http://www.news.dailytrust.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20025:efcc-writes-to-siemens-over-bribe&catid=46:lead-stories&Itemid=140

EFCC writes to Siemens over bribe

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is awaiting the arrival of Siemens officials from Germany in connection with the 17.5million Euros bribe scandal. The anti-graft agency is also winding up the case as following the interrogation of Nigerian officials alleged to have received slush funds from the corporation in form of cash, payment of trips expenses and estacode between 2000 and 2006 to secure contracts. EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said yesterday, "We have rounded up interrogation of Nigerian officials last week and this week we would be waiting to speak with Siemens officials." Babafemi confirmed that letters have been sent to the officials concerned expecting their presence at the headquarters of the commission in Abuja.

Press Freedom

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/932840/-/x0r1af/-/index.html>

Museveni summons cabinet to discuss CBS radio opening

President Yoweri Museveni has summoned Cabinet for an impromptu meeting to discuss the fate of Buganda Kingdom's closed Central Broadcasting Station FM radio. Details emerging indicate that Cabinet was meant to meet on Friday to discuss the outcome of the Cabinet sub-committee report and adopt a final position but the meeting was cancelled and postponed to Monday. The chairperson of the Cabinet sub-committee on CBS, also Information, Communication and Technology Minister, Mr. Aggrey Awori, confirmed to Sunday Monitor on phone yesterday that the President will be announcing the outcome of their committee report next week. "We did submit the report to the President and he will be announcing the outcome next week but it is the CBS managers who have delayed the opening of CBS. Each time the President is about to announce, they come up with fresh complications," he said.

Health

<http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/column/opinion/86-opinion/2980-aid-alone-will-not-turn-around-our-healthcare->

Uganda: Aid alone will not turn around our health care

It is 2010 - five years left to 2015 - the timeline set for achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With this looming deadline pending, it seems like a good time to reflect on progress towards these goals. Africa has the highest disease burden, yet the lowest financing on health. In 2001 Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries like Uganda made the Abuja declaration of 15% of public spending going to healthcare in the country. To make this happen, developed countries committed to spend 0.7% of their GDP on Official Development Assistance (ODA). To date, 41 SSA governments allocate less than 15% of their spending on health. For example, in 2009, Uganda allocated 8.2% (about half of the Abuja commitment) of national spending on healthcare. In the recent past, many initiatives including the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) have been created to fast-track the race to achieve the MDGs. Recently, significant new ODA commitments have been announced including: \$1 billion expansion of the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFI); \$360 million worth of debt conversions – Global Fund's Debt2Health Initiative and the launch of VAT tax credit pilot scheme called De-Tax expected to raise \$220 million a year in VAT resources.

Of Interest

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Police%20unmask%20kidnap%20gang%20/-/1056/933338/-/ouy7ig/-/index.html>

Kenya police unmask kidnap gang

Police in Nairobi have unearthed a three-man gang that kidnapped and killed a nine-year-old boy. A watchman alleged to be one of the criminals led police to the bush in Lenana School on Sunday, where

the remains of Antony Njirwa were found. The boy went missing from his parents' home in Ngando area, adjacent to the school, on April 6. His father, Mr. Samuel Muiruri, had paid Sh4,000 as part of the ransom demanded by his captors and was trying to raise more money, unaware that his son was dead. The criminals even called on Wednesday last week demanding more money, but Mr. Muiruri insisted on meeting them rather than sending the cash by phone. Only the skull and bones were recovered at the scene, but Mr. Muiruri identified his son's clothes and shoes.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/933064/-/w8rwmo/-/index.html>

Kenya: 85.6 million cocaine seized at airport

Cocaine worth millions of shillings has been seized at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The illicit drug was disguised as office stationery for United Nations staff in Uganda. Police are holding a Ugandan woman who landed at the airport at 7.30pm on Saturday carrying the drugs with a street value of Sh85.6 million. The 21.4 kilogrammes of the narcotic drug were wrapped in 10 packets and packed in two plastic boxes bearing UN logos. The boxes were labeled "diplomatic bags," enabling the woman to easily pass through security checks at other international airports. She had flown from Lima in Peru, to Brazil, then South Africa and was detained at JKIA after alighting from a South Africa Airlines plane. Detectives told the Nation that the woman had planned to leave Nairobi by road and enter Uganda via the Busia border point.